

IL Education Opportunities for Military Children Council

Monday, April 16, 2012

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Call-in 866-434-5269 Access Code 1722969#

Lieutenant Governor's Video Conference Room – 214 Capitol in Springfield

Governor's Video Conference Room – Suite 16-100 JRTC in Chicago

Chicago: Delio Calzolari, Deb Strauss

Springfield: Amy Amizich, Lizanne DeStefano, Amber Kirchhoff, Anne Kondziela, Julie Smith

Phone: Michele Carmichael, Cindy Doil, Chris McIntyre, Milt Thompson

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introduction

In the Commissioner's absence, Julie Smith asked Lizanne DeStefano to chair. Lizanne of the P-20 Council welcomed participants and initiated introductions.

II. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Delio Calzolari requested an edit which clarified language in the draft minutes. Revision was accepted and minutes were approved.

III. Review and Discussion of Illinois' Legislation

Council reviewed and discussed specific expectations and responsibilities outlined in Illinois' statute including language relating to immunizations and physical examinations, academic transcripts, and special education services to better understand what the provisions of the legislative language.

IV. Review and Discussion of FAQ's

Meeting participants discussed common challenges reported to school liaison officers regarding the process of transitioning students into local schools from families who are either considering moving to Illinois or have moved to Illinois. Common questions were related to student transcripts and transfer of coursework, transfer of health records, immunization and screening requirements as well as kindergarten age cut offs. The group also reviewed other states materials and a survey of information commonly included on other states' council websites. The group was particularly

interested in adapting Florida's FAQ's to reflect what is available in Illinois and who to contact for more information on a topic. The group agreed that contact information for superintendents' offices, base school liaison officers, and the IL State Board of Education should be prominent on any informational materials intended for the public.

Action Item 1: Draft frequently asked questions document and transfer checklist for review and discussion at July meeting.

V. Review and Discussion of Other State's Outreach Efforts

Meeting participants reviewed outreach documents from other states for parallel efforts including Virginia's Communications Plan, the MIC3 brochure, and Texas' informational presentation. The group also reviewed a document which compiled the types of information and links other states typically provide in their online resources including links to programs, services, and related organizations and other resources.

Group noted the importance of helping families to understand that many decisions pertaining to transfers of students are made at a local level so it is important to plan in advance and be aware of the key points of contact. To the extent that it is possible, basic information should be put together in a comprehensive and easily accessible format that is widely available through different sources including but not limited to ISBE, district sites and offices, base school liaison offices, and the P-20 Council website and IEOMCC page. ISBE agreed to feature information on IEOMCC and the Compact in the Superintendent's Memo to enhance awareness. Lizanne also mentioned the possibility of incorporating a more detailed update on the Council in the next P-20 annual report. To minimize misunderstandings, the group also expressed interest in a chart comparing the National Compact and Illinois' legislation on key points, highlighting areas where families need to work with districts so that they can begin planning in advance and are aware of who they need to contact for specific questions.

The Council also discussed the possibility of developing a logo or symbol which could be used to provide some standardization to materials and raise visibility of the Compact and work of the Council.

Action Item 1: For the July meeting, the Council agreed that a checklist for military families should be developed for review.

Action Item 2: Research possibilities of developing a logo for IEOMCC.

VI. Updates and Announcements

In compliance with state statute, the P-20 Council will be selecting a commissioner moving forward. A review of what other state descriptions of the role of the Commissioner as well as will be reviewed. A description of the roles and responsibilities of the Commissioner as they relate to the Compact and the Council will be drafted for solicitation of nominations. The Council will be notified

when nominations are being accepted and will be encouraged to share the opportunity widely as well as submit nominations.

Action Item 1: Draft of roles and responsibilities of Commissioner pertaining to Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission and IL Educational Opportunities for Military Children Council by July meeting.

VII. Adjourn